AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (ORIGINAL) An assembly system for a pipe coupling, said system comprising a first pipe element, a second pipe element and a circumferential clamping device to be applied on the outside of the ends of said pipe elements and to be tightened around the same when said two pipe elements are placed end-to-end, said assembly system further comprising a coupling device to be arranged between said ends of said first and said second pipe elements and beneath said circumferential clamping device, so as to align and/or hold said two pipe elements during the assembly.

2. (ORIGINAL) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said coupling device has at least one coupling means extending outwardly in an axial direction towards said pipe elements.

3. (ORIGINAL) The system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said coupling means is arranged to engage said two pipe elements on their outside.

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4. (ORIGINAL) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said pipe elements at their ends have an outwardly directed circumferential bead or flange.

5. (ORIGINAL) The system as claimed in claim 4, wherein said coupling device is a ring comprising a first and a second coupling means, where said first coupling means is adapted to outwardly engage said first pipe element or said bead or flange of said first pipe element and said second coupling means is adapted to outwardly engage and/or hold said second pipe element or said bead or flange of said second pipe element.

6. (ORIGINAL) The system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said coupling means has a groove adapted to engage said beads or flanges of said pipe elements.

7. (ORIGINAL) The system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said coupling means is adapted to engage a part of said pipe elements or a part of said beads or flanges of said pipe elements.

8. (ORIGINAL) The system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said first coupling means extends along part of the circumference of said ring so as to engage said first pipe element or said bead

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or flange of said first pipe element, and said second coupling means extends along part of the circumference of said ring so as to engage and/or hold said second pipe element or said bead or flange of said second pipe element.

9. (ORIGINAL) The system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said first coupling means is adapted to outwardly engage an upper part of said first pipe element or said bead or flange of said first pipe element and said second coupling means is adapted to outwardly engage and/or hold a lower part of said second pipe element or said bead or flange of said second pipe element.

10. (ORIGINAL) The system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said coupling ring comprises a plurality of said first coupling means and a plurality of said second coupling means, said first and second coupling means being spaced apart along the circumference of said coupling ring.

11. (ORIGINAL) The system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said coupling means comprises friction enhancing means on the surface facing said pipe elements or said bead or flange of said pipe elements.

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12. (ORIGINAL) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coupling device comprises sealing means.

13. (ORIGINAL) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said coupling device is made of plastic material, rubber material, metal or reinforced fibre material.

14. (ORIGINAL) The system as claimed in claim 4, wherein said clamping device is tightened around said ends of said pipe elements or said beads or flanges of said pipe elements and said coupling device by a locking mechanism.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim~~s~~ 1, wherein the coupling device is an integrated part of said end of said first pipe element.

16. (ORIGINAL) A method for coupling a first pipe element and a second pipe element, said method comprising

-applying a circumferential clamping device on the outside of said first pipe element in an untightened position;

-arranging a coupling device in engagement with the end of said first pipe element;

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-bringing the end of said second pipe element into engagement with said coupling device, thus aligning and/or holding said two pipe elements during the assembly;

-applying said circumferential clamping device on the outside of said ends of said pipe elements; and

-tightening said circumferential clamping device around said ends of said pipe elements.

17. (ORIGINAL) A method for coupling a first pipe element and a second pipe element, use being made of an assembly system comprising a circumferential clamping device, which is applied on the outside of the ends of said pipe elements and tightened around the same when said two pipe elements are placed end-to-end, wherein a coupling device is arranged between said ends of said first and second pipe elements to align and/or hold said two pipe elements during the assembly.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) Use of an assembly system as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 1~~-15~~ for coupling a first pipe element and a second pipe element.

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19. (ORIGINAL) The use of the assembly system as claimed in claim 18, wherein said pipe elements at their ends comprise an outwardly directed circumferential bead or flange.

20. (ORIGINAL) A coupling device for an assembly system for a pipe coupling including a first pipe element and a second pipe element, said coupling device having at least one coupling means extending outwardly in the axial direction, said coupling means being arranged to engage said two pipe elements on their outside.

21. (ORIGINAL) The coupling device as claimed in claim 20, wherein said coupling device is a ring comprising a first and a second coupling means, where said first coupling means is adapted to outwardly engage said first pipe element and said second coupling means is adapted to outwardly engage and/or hold said second pipe element.

22. (ORIGINAL) The coupling device as claimed in claim 21, wherein said first coupling means is adapted to outwardly engage an upper part of said first pipe element and said second coupling means is adapted to outwardly engage and/or hold a lower part of said second pipe element.

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23. (ORIGINAL) The coupling device as claimed in claim 21, comprising two semi-circular coupling means.

24. (NEW) The system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the coupling device is an integrated part of said end of said first pipe element.

25. (NEW) The system as claimed in claim 3, wherein the coupling device is an integrated part of said end of said first pipe element.

26. (NEW) The system as claimed in claim 4, wherein the coupling device is an integrated part of said end of said first pipe element.

27. (NEW) The system as claimed in claim 5, wherein the coupling device is an integrated part of said end of said first pipe element.

28. (NEW) The system as claimed in claim 6, wherein the coupling device is an integrated part of said end of said first pipe element.

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29. (NEW) The system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the coupling device is an integrated part of said end of said first pipe element.

30. (NEW) The system as claimed in claim 8, wherein the coupling device is an integrated part of said end of said first pipe element.

31. (NEW) The system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the coupling device is an integrated part of said end of said first pipe element.

32. (NEW) The system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the coupling device is an integrated part of said end of said first pipe element.

33. (NEW) The system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the coupling device is an integrated part of said end of said first pipe element.

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34. (NEW) The system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the coupling device is an integrated part of said end of said first pipe element.

35. (NEW) The system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the coupling device is an integrated part of said end of said first pipe element.

36. (NEW) The system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the coupling device is an integrated part of said end of said first pipe element.

37. (NEW) Use of an assembly system as claimed in claim 2 for coupling a first pipe element and a second pipe element.

38. (NEW) Use of an assembly system as claimed in claim 3 for coupling a first pipe element and a second pipe element.

39. (NEW) Use of an assembly system as claimed in claim 4 for coupling a first pipe element and a second pipe element.

40. (NEW) Use of an assembly system as claimed in claim 5 for coupling a first pipe element and a second pipe element.

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41. (NEW) Use of an assembly system as claimed in claim 6 for coupling a first pipe element and a second pipe element.

42. (NEW) Use of an assembly system as claimed in claim 7 for coupling a first pipe element and a second pipe element.

43. (NEW) Use of an assembly system as claimed in claim 8 for coupling a first pipe element and a second pipe element.

44. (NEW) Use of an assembly system as claimed in claim 9 for coupling a first pipe element and a second pipe element.

45. (NEW) Use of an assembly system as claimed in claim 10 for coupling a first pipe element and a second pipe element.

46. (NEW) Use of an assembly system as claimed in claim 11 for coupling a first pipe element and a second pipe element.

47. (NEW) Use of an assembly system as claimed in claim 12 for coupling a first pipe element and a second pipe element.

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48. (NEW) Use of an assembly system as claimed in claim 13 for coupling a first pipe element and a second pipe element.

49. (NEW) Use of an assembly system as claimed in claim 14 for coupling a first pipe element and a second pipe element.

50. (NEW) Use of an assembly system as claimed in claim 15 for coupling a first pipe element and a second pipe element.

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